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SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on
the Austrian Communist Press

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The following report consists of a number of diverse items concerning the
Austrian Communist press.

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1. The Austrian Ministry for Property Control and Economic Planning is con-
sidering measures to take over the Globus Verlag, since rent on the build-
ings has long been unpaid. the Ministry is
said to have notified Globus Verlag of its intentions. The business execu-
tors of Globus, Bremer and Burchardt, have refused to pay the rent originally
agreed upon, claiming it is too high, and the Ministry is unwilling to wait
longer for its money. The indebtedness is said to amount to several hundreds
of thousands of schillings.

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2. The Austrian Ministry for Property Control and Economic Planning is investi-
gating a Communist named Hans Molik who was administrator of the former Nazi
publication firm of Eher, Vienna VII, Seidengasse 3-5. (Comment: The
Vienna telephone directory lists a publishing house called Franz Eher's Nach-
folger, administered by Karl Heinz, Vienna II, Taborstrasse 2b.) Molik had
been directed by the Ministry to transfer certain furniture and other material
from the Eher firm to the newspaper, Neues Oesterreich (coalition, offices at
the Eher firm's former address, Vienna VII, Seidengasse 3). Instead, by order
of Soviet authorities, Molik transferred a part of this equipment, valued at
250,000 schillings, to the Communist publishing firm, Schoenbrunn Verlag, in
the Soviet Sector of Vienna (Comment: The Schoenbrunn Verlag, G.m.b.H. 50X1-HUM
is in Vienna IV, Prinz Eugenstrasse 5). The owner of the Schoenbrunn Verlag
is Karl Hans Heinz, formerly a Nazi but now a member of the Austrian Communist
Party. the Soviets wished the equipment
moved to the Soviet Sectors so as to lay claim to it as "Ger-
man property".

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3. A Soviet lieutenant colonel arrived from Moscow to inspect the financial condition of Globus Verlag. He began by checking the administration of the Oesterreichische Zeitung and was dissatisfied with the results. The newspaper has attempted to boost circulation by distributing the paper free to selected Austrians for a month and continuing to distribute it unless the prospective customers announce their disinclination to receive it further. Since sales, including the involuntary subscribers just mentioned, do not exceed 29,000 copies, the Soviet inspector considers present production of 41,000 copies as wasteful. It is considered likely, as a result of his criticism, that some Soviet officials will be replaced and some Austrian employees dismissed for incompetence. After checking the Oesterreichische Zeitung, the officer will inspect the Volksstimme; he is said to have already criticised this newspaper for the excessive number of editorial staff members which it maintains.

4. The Central Committee has always regarded the Globus Verlag as one of its main sources of income, and has thereby undermined the financial position of Globus by repeated demands. For example, Globus must pay in cash for deliveries from USIA firms. Printing and other machinery to supply Communist presses in the Austrian provinces is bought in Germany by the Central Committee through experts appointed by Globus.

Because of such unexpected heavy expenses, Globus has often been unable to meet pressing bills to cover its own operations. It is anticipated that workers will be laid off and expenses cut in the coming months.

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5. The following is a list of circulation figures, [] for the principal newspapers printed by Globus Verlag:

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<u>Volksstimme</u> , for Vienna:	45,000 copies
<u>Volksstimme</u> , for Lower Austria:	22,000 copies
<u>Oesterreichische Zeitung</u> :	40,000 copies
<u>Der Abend</u> :	20,000 copies
<u>Sa Cest Rodine</u> :	19,000 copies
<u>Die Woche</u> :	101,400 copies
<u>Freies Burgenland</u> :	8,000 copies

6. Globus Verlag made a payment of 9,504.44 schillings in cash to the Communist printing house, Neus Zeit, in Linz-Urfahr. A similar payment of 3,275.74 schillings was made by Globus to the same firm []

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